Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting
Monday, 20 January 2025, 6.00 to 7.30pm
Zoom

PRESENT

Suzanne Ross (SR)	Bonnyrigg and District
Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Avril Ramsey (AR)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Jacqueline Frankitti (JF)	Gorebridge and District
Karen Richardson (KR)	Howgate
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Shona Hamilton (SH)	Moorfoot
Anna Smaill (AS)	Moorfoot
Ken Brown (KB)	Penicuik and District
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston

IN ATTENDANCE

Dean Anderson (DA)	Midlothian Council - Project Officer - Greenspace
Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability

APOLOGIES

Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Service Manager, Road Networks and Transport

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**
   i   Robert Hogg (MECC) chaired the meeting and welcomed both members and guest speakers.
   ii   Notes of Previous Meeting (November 2024)
        Proposed: Brian Farrell
        Seconded: Dougie West

2. **INPUT BY THE MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL PROJECT OFFICER – GREENSPACE.**

   i. DA advised members of his relatively new role within Midlothian Council. His Access Officer role for the Council includes working alongside colleagues to work in partnership with Midlothian residents and public and private landowners. Additionally, DA has responsibility for Core Paths in the county and for the monitoring issues relating to the health and condition of Trees in Midlothian.

   ii. DA advised that revised communication systems (email addresses etc) are being developed in order to improve responses and 2-way communication with Midlothian's communities.

   iii. In the short term any enquiries can be sent via the landscapeandcountrysideenquiries@midlothinan.gov.uk email address.

   iv. **Enquiries made by MTRaP members.**

   - **Howgate - Reduction in speed limits from 30mph to 20mph.**
     DA and colleagues recognise that there will be a period of adjustment (on the part of drivers) required before the revised speed limit is fully observed by drivers in the area.

   - **Roslin and Bilston** – DA noted that he will be working in partnership with Neil Symington (Team Leader – Greenspace) to address issues of concern about the condition of trees in the area.
     Concerns about a Clothes recycling bank were raised. DA advised that it is likely that the Unit will be provided by a private organisation.

   - **Dalkeith – Recycling Bank opposite Midlothian House**. DA will contact colleagues in Neighbourhood Services to address concerns raised.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

   i. **Capital Works Programme (CWP) update.**

   - AH (Midlothian Council) had previously circulated his monthly Capital Works Programme update.
   - If MTRaP members require any further information about the content of the report, they could contact him (alan.heatley@midlothian.gov.uk).

4. **CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, JOINT PRIORITY SCHEMES (2025–2026)**

   i. The deadline for the submission of proposals had been 13 January. PJ had circulated the collated proposals to MTRaP members.

   ii. AH was unable to participate in discussion about the proposals although he was able to hear the discussion.

   iii. Through the 'chat' function of Zoom AH, was able to advise that a number of the proposals submitted would not meet the criteria for consideration as part of co-prioritisation initiative. They *may* be able to be considered for action as an element of the Residential Streets Programme.

   iv. There was agreement, that PJ would once again, circulate information about the initiative to the 4 Community Councils who had not submitted any suggestions thus far.

   ACTIONS:
   - **PJ to contact the remaining 4 Community Councils.**
   - **PJ to forward the revised list of proposals to Alan Heatley and Wayne Clark for consideration.**
   - **The proposal will be discussed at the next MTRaP meeting on Monday, 3 March.**

5. **ACTIVE TRAVEL**

   I. Member requested that a member of Midlothian's Active Travel Team be invited to a meeting of MTRaP.

   Action:
   - **PJ to contact a member of the Active Travel Team to invite them to a meeting.**

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

   i. **Invitation to A7 Urbanisation Stakeholder meetings**
   - An invitation inviting a member of MTRaP to a stakeholder meeting had been circulated. The meeting was to seek the views of stakeholders about the proposals in advance of local residents being consulted in a series of public engagements.
   - A number of those present indicated that they were very unhappy with regard to the short notice given of the meeting and that there had been no provision for meetings outside of work hours.
   - PJ advised he will inform members of the A7 project group of the concerns expressed by MTRaP members and ask if a meeting could be held outside of work hours.

- He also advised that planning for public consultation (daytime, evening, and a Saturday) about the proposals is underway and that information will be circulated at the earliest opportunity.

Action:
- **PJ to contact A7 Urbanisation project group to request a time\date for an evening meeting for MTRaP and\or Community Council members.**

ii. **Midlothian Council response when clearing Ice and Snow**
- Members noted that, on the whole, Midlothian Council had provided an excellent response to the cold and icy conditions. However, KB (Penicuik) highlighted that in Penicuik, footways had continued to be in a dangerous, icy condition and that in local residents' opinion, Midlothian Council had been slow to respond when gritting and clearing footways in the area.
- ASK noted that, although in early 2024 they had highlighted the icy condition of the vennel path from North Wynd car park to the high street, they had not been gritted during the recent icy conditions.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 3 MARCH, 6.00 - 7.30, ZOOM**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87912994876?pwd=2hegaV8az8jpRxbRbODJF1YRBkAall.1
Meeting ID: 879 1299 4876
Passcode: 186066